

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments.

Claims 19 is currently being amended to add the language, “wherein said apoptotic bodies exhibit at least two characteristics comprising DNA fragmentation, surface exposure of phosphatidylserine, or altered mitochondrial membrane permeability,” to clarify the biological properties of the apoptotic bodies used in the claimed methods.

Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 2, line 2 – page 4, line 17 and page 6, line 12 – page 7, line 2, of the specification.

New claims 46-59 have been added.

Support for new claims 46-59 is found in the specification and/or original claims as described at page 6 of Applicants Reply filed in the Patent Office on January 20, 2004 and/or at page 2, line 2 – page 4, line 17 and page 6, line 12 – page 7, line 2, of the specification.

New claim 58 is similar to amended claim 19 and new claim 59 is associated with new claim 46; however, the new claims recite additional characteristics of apoptotic cells, which may be associated with the cells used to practice the invention. Support for these additional characteristics can also be found, for example, at the above-referenced pages of the specification.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

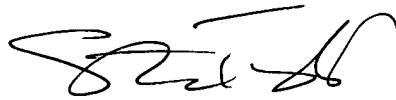
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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